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NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971

by the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Divisional Medical Officer,
County Offices,
Watling Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1971

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

Chairman: Councillor W. Birtwisle

BUILDING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor E. O. Stokes

COUNCILLORS

N. A. Ackerley	D. R. George
Ald. N. N. Aitchison, M.B.E., J.P.	G. O. Gibbon
T. E. Allen	F. Gleave
W. Allen	J. Hayes
G. Ashman	H. K. Hinde
R. M. Bancroft	J. Johnson
Mrs. G. I. Bourne	Miss M. E. Lea
K. Brocklehurst	T. H. Lumsden
D. W. Carter	Mrs. M. M. Oppenheimer
Dr. C. P. Chivers	T. E. Percival
P. Clarke	Mrs. J. M. Pollard, M.B.E.
T. Comboy	W. H. Samuel
W. R. Copeman	R. H. Shepherd
A. Corwood	F. A. Stanway
E. Dale	T. E. Stock
G. Done	Mrs. E. Wall
Miss G. M. Denton	A. Walley
J. Fareham	Mrs. M. Williamson
Mrs. H. I. A. Forster	Mrs. L. Wyatt
J. A. Frith	Mrs. A. Young
N. Frith, M.B.E., J.P.	



Medical Officer of Health

J. E. O'Malley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Middlewich Urban District Council, Northwich Urban District Council, Runcorn Urban District Council, Winsford Urban District Council, Runcorn Rural District Council

and

Divisional Medical Officer

to the

Mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions

Chief Public Health Inspector

J. S. Carrie, M.R.S.H.

Other Appointments : Cleansing Superintendent & Transport Officer

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

W. P. Musgrave

Additional Public Health Inspectors

R. D. Clarke

B. Marsland

A. R. Chesworth

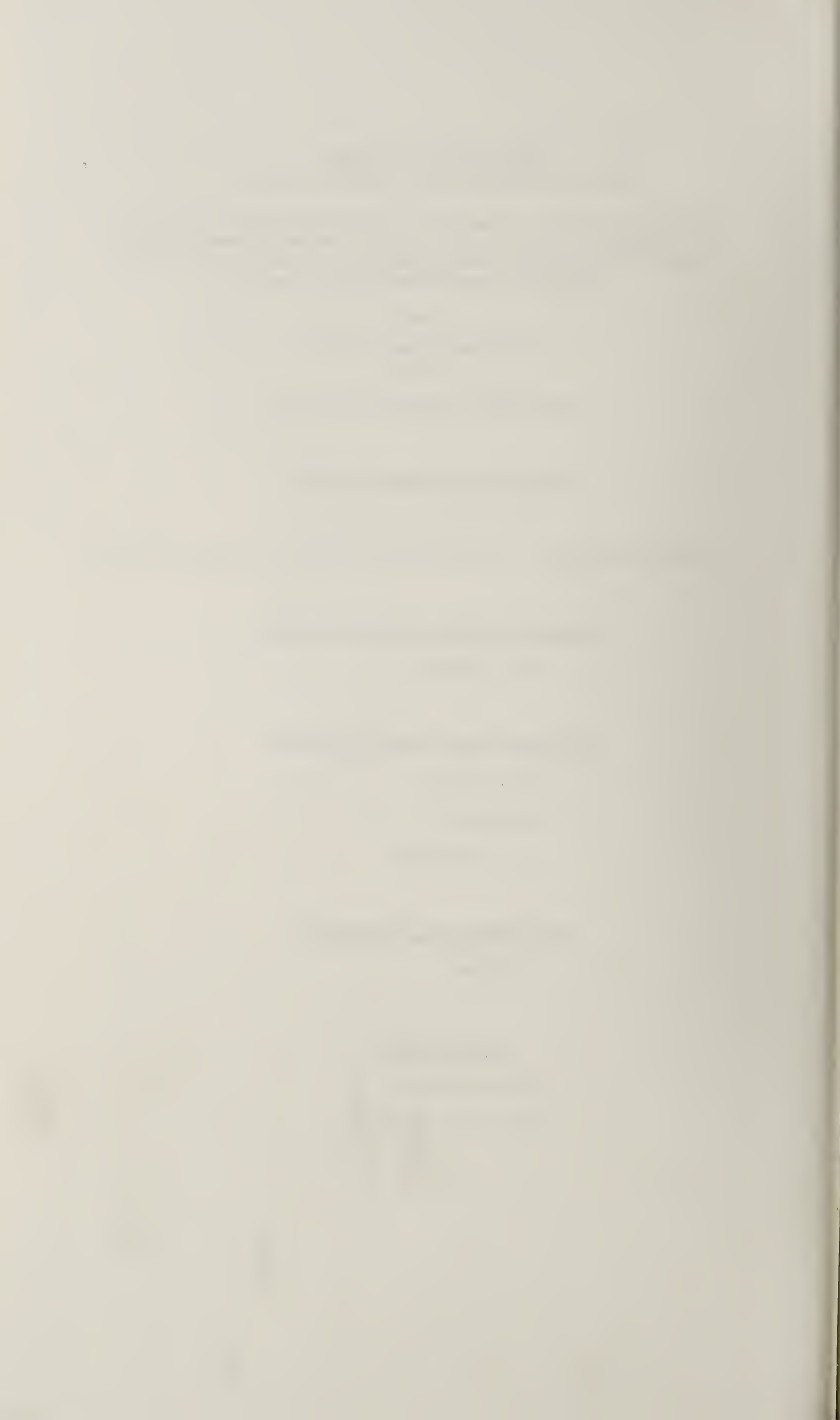
Pupil Public Health Inspector

G. Corker

Clerical Staff

Mrs. M. McGowan

Mrs. J. S. Coppock



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the 1971 Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The year has been essentially a period of consolidation with further steps being taken towards functional integration of the three branches of the National Health Service preparatory to the major changes envisaged in 1974.

Visits have been paid to group practices to evaluate the attachment of nursing staff to general practitioner groups. There has been an appraisal of the working of such community care teams and where necessary suggestions made towards improving methods of utilising attached nursing staff.

The Social Service Department is now established and links have been forged between the Officers concerned and the Health Department staff. Relations between the two departments are close and this is an essential ingredient in providing total community care.

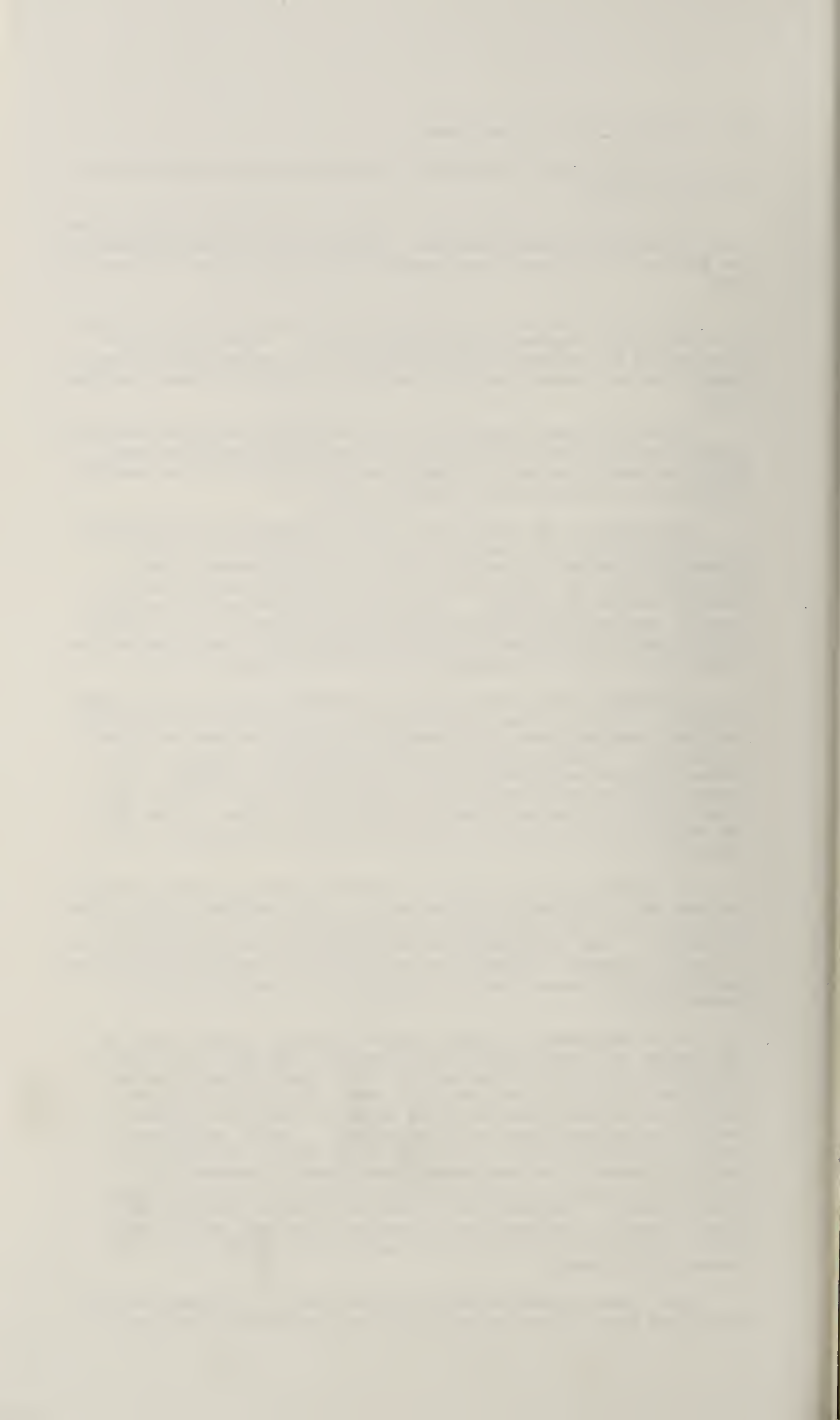
With regard to the Child Health Service preparations were made for the introduction on 1st January, 1972 of the integrated Child Health Screening programme with computer call up for appointments. The Divisional staff are greatly involved with this and preparations went ahead in considerable detail. Several of the part-time and sessional doctors, together with general practitioners interested in this aspect of medicine, attended County Courses at Gatley Health Centre and Eastham Clinic respectively to familiarise them with screening techniques.

The parents' first introduction to the scheme will be by the health visitor. She will discuss the scheme at her first visit and undertake the first group of tests at six weeks in the clinic or home as is most convenient. Thereafter the tests will be undertaken alternately by medical officers and nurses who have received special training. The parents will receive a postal invitation to bring their child to the local clinic at 6 months, 9 months, 2 years and 3 years. At 4½ years the child will be invited for a pre-school medical examination as at present.

The computer call-up scheme for Cervical Cytology has made steady progress and is gradually being extended. There has been, also, testing of female staff from schools and other departments for their immunity to Rubella. This is an important preventive exercise and women who have no natural immunity to Rubella can now be offered vaccination which gives protection to subsequent unborn children from the adverse effects of German Measles.

In the environmental field I made reference in my last report to the work of the Public Health Inspectors, and, once again, the bulk of this report deals with a wide variety of environmental health matters which have been dealt with during the year. The surveillance and supervision of communicable diseases cases and contacts continues to demand a considerable portion of their time. This is particularly so during the foreign holiday period, which now appears to extend from April to October. The tracing and surveillance of contacts of Cholera from areas in the Mediterranean proved considerable and very time consuming. The trend for continental holidays continues and this, in turn, is reflected in an increase in the work of the Public Health Inspectors in this important aspect of the control of communicable disease.

Here I have to mention the retirement of Mr. J. S. Carrie who has been Chief Public Health Inspector with this Authority for the past



35 years. It is largely due to his guidance and foresight that the Department has evolved to its present high level of achievement. We wish him well in his retirement and trust that this is both long and happy.

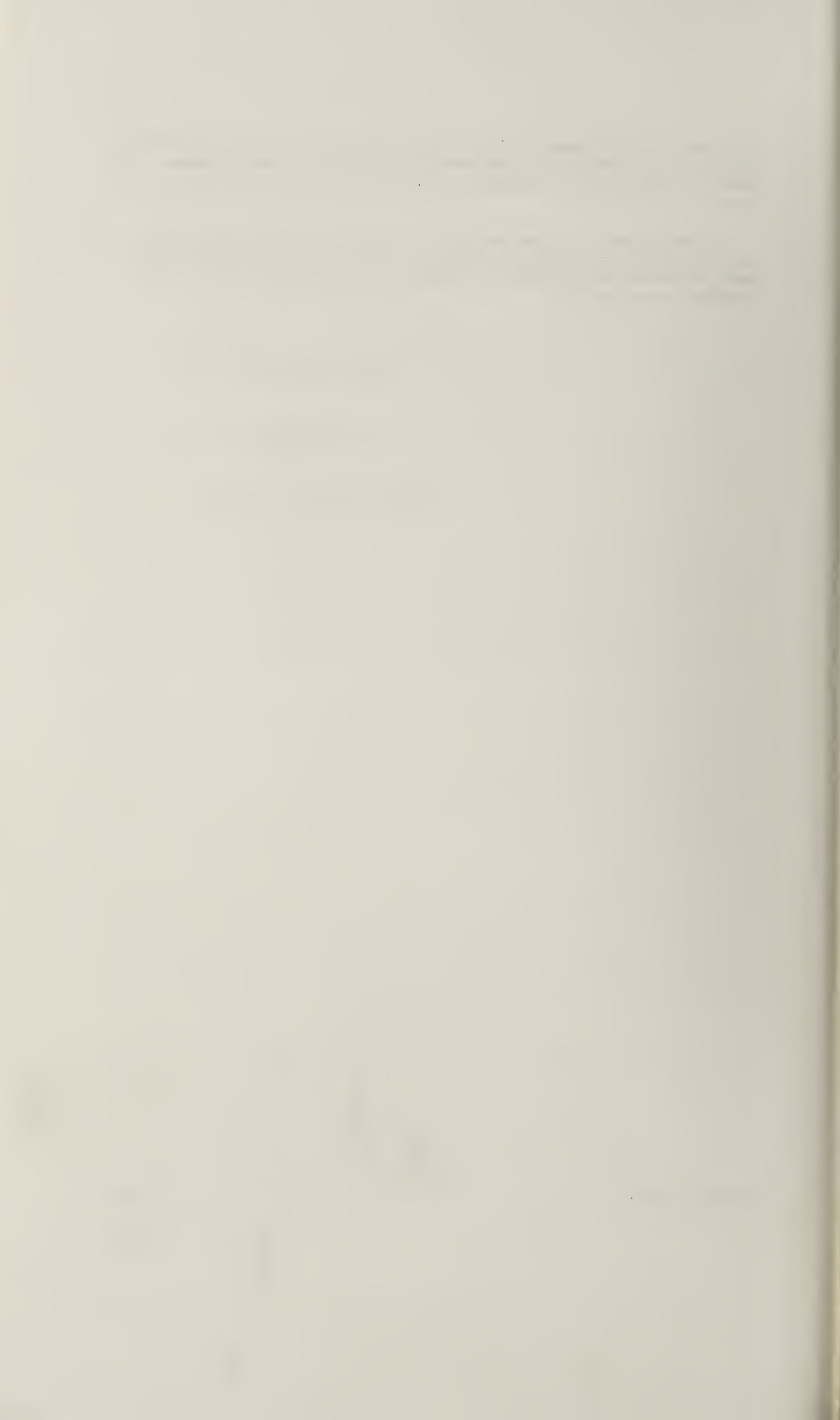
I should like to thank him and his staff for their loyalty and support, the Clerk and Chief Officers of the Council for their help and advice and the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their constant co-operation.

Yours obediently,

J. E. O'Malley

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1972



To: The Chairman and Members of the
Northwich Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The end of the year was in a sense the end of an era in that Mr. J. S. Carrie retired as Chief Public Health Inspector after 37 years service with this authority. He had been away from work because of ill-health since August and retired officially on the 31st December, 1971.

We are now all thinking in terms of amalgamation and reorganisation and already future departmental plans are inevitably pointed in this direction. At the same time, the normal working of the Public Health Department must be carried on and it is this work which is the subject of this report.

One aspect of public health work, this year, has been the high number of visits paid by inspectors to persons returning home after continental holidays in resorts where there has been a cholera outbreak. Fortunately there were no confirmed cases, but such an incident only serves to emphasise health hazards which have now been increased by the speed of modern transport. This bears out comments made each year in these reports on this subject.

Intensive farming has brought 'intensive problems' in the disposal of large quantities of waste. Traditional methods of spreading on land can no longer be accepted, particularly where the land in question adjoins housing development. The public are not prepared to accept 'good agricultural practice' as an excuse.

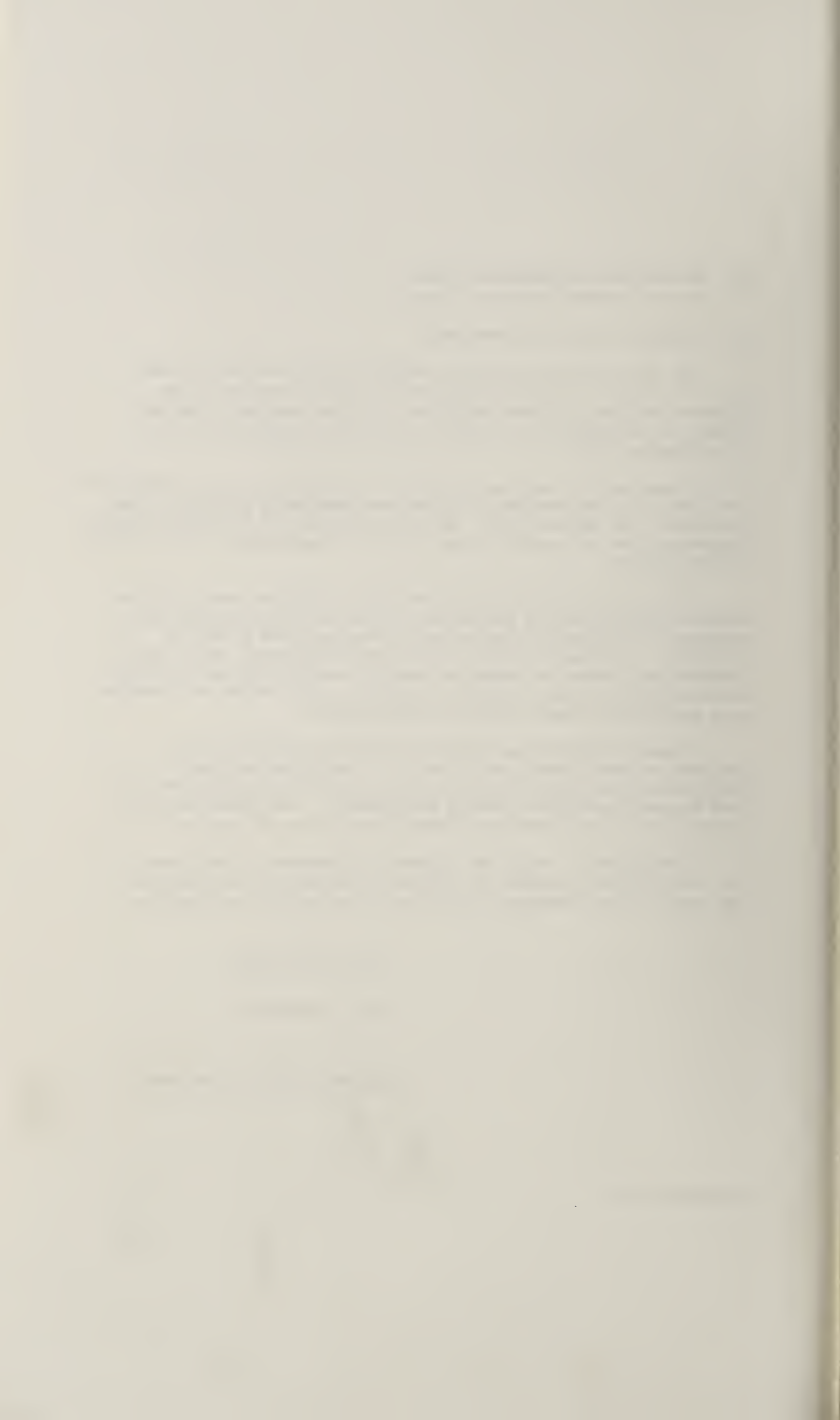
I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, the Medical Officer of Health for his help, and the staff in the Department for their willing support and loyalty.

Yours obediently,

W. P. Musgrave

Chief Public Health Inspector.

November, 1972



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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS 1970/71

	1970	1971
Population	42,260	43,450
Area (in acres)	57,017	57,017
Rateable Value (1.4.71.)	£1,472,162	£1,530,778
Product of 1p Rate	£14,316	£15,249
Estimated number of dwellings	14,846	15,052

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Legitimate	372	319	691	
Illegitimate	19	26	45	
Total Live Births	391	345	736	

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.9	
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.06)	17.9	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	6.0	8.0

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Still Births</u>	4	4	8	
Live and Still Births	395	349	744	
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			11.0	12.0

<u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	13	8	21
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	14	8	22

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	30.0	18.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	22.0	12.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	18.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	28.0	22.0
Deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil	

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
All Causes	257	243	500	
Death rate per 1,000 population			11.5	
Corrected death rates per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.18)			13.6	11.6

NOTE : The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other areas.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Enteritis & Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
3. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	2	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	5	13
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	6	10
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	26	2	28
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	14	14
9. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
11. Leukaemia	1	-	1
12. Other Malignant Neoplasms	13	14	27
13. Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	2	1	3
14. Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3
15. Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
16. Mental Disorders	-	1	1
17. Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
18. Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1
19. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2	2
20. Hypertensive Disease	2	4	6
21. Ischaemic Heart Disease	69	59	128
22. Other Forms of Heart Disease	11	13	24
23. Cerebrovascular Disease	32	53	85
24. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	12	17	29
25. Influenza	1	-	1
26. Pneumonia	11	10	21
27. Bronchitis and Emphysema	17	5	22
28. Asthma	1	1	2
29. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
30. Peptic Ulcer	3	1	4
31. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
32. Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
33. Other Diseases of Digestive System	5	1	6
34. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
35. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
36. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
37. Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	1
38. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	1
39. Congenital Anomalies	2	3	5
40. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	4	3	7
41. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	7	-	7
42. Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	5	8	13
43. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	5
44. All Other Accidents	2	1	3
45. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
46. All Other External Causes	-	1	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>500</u>

S E C T I O N I I

HEALTH SERVICES

1. Information concerning the statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare Services in the area may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer at the County Offices, Watling Street, Northwich. Tel. No. Northwich 3961.

2. HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Northwich Rural District, apart from Tarporley, lies within the Manchester Regional Hospital Board's area, whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Tel. No. Deansgate 6441; Tarporley being within the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board's area, whose offices are at Pearl Assurance House, 55 Castle Street, Liverpool. 2. Tel. No. Central 8464.

3. GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES

The District lies within the area of the Cheshire Executive Council, whose offices are at 28, Nicholas Street, Chester. Tel.No.Chester 23158

4. AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at the County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangements for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring Northwich Depot - Tel. No. Northwich 3355.

S E C T I O N I I I

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the years 1970 and 1971.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1970	1971
Food Poisoning	1	2
Measles	276	216
Scarlet Fever	34	23
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	2
Tuberculosis, non-respiratory	2	-
Whooping Cough	8	8
Infectious Hepatitis	2	1
Malaria	-	1

S E C T I O N I V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Statement of Inspections Made

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

Dwelling Houses, Housing Acts	344
Dwelling Houses, Public Health Acts	75
Improvement Grants	266
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	251
Caravan Sites	17
Infectious Diseases	105
Disinfection of Premises	2
Disinfestation of Premises	20
Sanitary Accommodation & Public Conveniences	272
Drainage, Septic Tanks, etc.	108
Water Courses and Ditches	78
Water Supply	9
Effluvia Nuisances & Offensive Accumulations	104
Refuse Collection, Disposal and Tips	897
Rodent and Pest Control	2104
Keeping of Animals	4
Animal Boarding Establishments	19
Intensive Farming Practices	64
Air Pollution and Smoke Observations	42
Schools	5
Hairdressing Establishments	15
Gypsy Encampments	89
Abandoned Vehicles	71
Education	26
Civic Amenities Act	386
Miscellaneous Visits and Interviews	543

FOOD HYGIENE

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	1085
Other Food Inspection	18
Butchers	51
Fishmongers	25
Grocers and Greengrocers	72
Bakehouses	19
Fried Fish Shops	11
Licensed Premises, Hotels and Restaurants	73
Poultry Packing Station	263
General - Sweets, Tobacco, etc.	27
Ice-Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	6
Dairies and Milk Dealers	8
Vehicles delivering milk and food	79
Canteens	8
Open Air Sporting Events	11
Food and Drugs Administration	8
Slaughterhouse Inspections	16

FACTORIES

Factories - Power	49
Factories - Non-power	2
Building sites	11

SAMPLING

Specimens in connection with Infectious Diseases	38
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Total	7796
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GENERAL

A complaint regarding perchlorethylene fumes entering domestic premises from a coin-operated laundrette caused considerable problems during the year. A number of works to remedy defects were carried out by the owners and the problem now appears to have been solved.

The Code of Practice to be issued in 1972 will, it is hoped, be of great assistance when any new dry-cleaning establishments are being considered.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The contraventions of the Act are now mainly of a minor nature, e.g. failure to maintain the first aid equipment to the required standard or mislaying the extract of the Act following redecoration.

No accidents have been notified during the year so it would appear that either the employers and employees are extremely safety conscious or are not notifying accidents although the requirement is brought to their attention at each inspection.

The following extract is from the Statutory Return to H. M. Inspector of Factories.

TABLE A

Registration and General Inspection

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total No. Registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	16	12
Retail Shops	-	100	78
Wholesale shops and warehouses	1	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	29	29
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	146	120

TABLE B

No. of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises 251

TABLE C

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	195
Retail Shops	359
Wholesale departments, warehouses	4
Catering establishments open to the public	160
Canteens	8
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	726
Total : Males	278
Total : Females	448

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories with mechanical Power	102	49	4	-
Factories without mechanical power ...	2	2	-	-
Other premises ...	5	11	1	-
TOTALS	109	62	5	-

Cases in which defects were found :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were made	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.		By H.M.
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	6	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

There are no outworkers registered within the district.

WATER SUPPLY

Supplied by :- Mid Cheshire Water Board,
The Grange,
Hartford, Northwich.

Tel. No. Northwich 74263.

143 samples of water were taken during the year and all were satisfactory. No complaints were received from householders during the year and the supply is not plumbo-solvent.

The Water Board have informed me that no premises in the district are now supplied by means of a standpipe.

The following table shows the Parishes in which some dwellings still have private water supplies :-

Parish	No. of Premises	Population	Source of Supply
Darnhall	6	20	Spring
Little Leigh	1	3	Spring
Marton	1	4	Spring

All private sources of supply were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, for the following information :-

Comberbach

The scheme for extension to the Sewage Disposal Works to provide for further development in accordance with the village plan, and also to take additional flow from Antrobus in Runcorn Rural District was put in hand, and by the end of the year the works were almost complete.

Mereheath Pumping Scheme

By the end of the year the work of constructing a new pumping station and rising main direct to the Davenham Sewage Disposal Works to deal with additional development in Mereheath and Moulton areas was completed.

Lower Mill, Cuddington

The provision of a pumping station to deal with the small group of houses in the vicinity of Lower Mill, Cuddington was completed. This enables the drainage from these houses to be connected into the Cuddington main sewerage system for treatment at the new Cuddington Sewage Disposal Works.

Oakmere Realignment of Foul Sewer

In connection with the necessity to re-site the main outfall sewer which runs parallel to Chester Road on the southerly side, all work was completed early in the year.

Weaverham Sewage Disposal Works

All work was completed early in the year in respect of alterations to the sludge drying beds to provide for sludge storage, etc. in connection with the better use of the sludge digester.

Crabtree Caravan Site Drainage Scheme

Approval to the scheme to provide drainage from this caravan site which has a resident population was received early in the year and construction was completed by the end of the year ready to receive drainage from the site, leaving only works to be done by the private developer.

Wincham Sewage Disposal Works Extension

Tenders were received for minor extensions to the Wincham Sewage Disposal Works to provide for sewerage for the first time in the Parish of Pickmere in the Bucklow Rural area, which was to be drained to the Wincham system. By the end of the year construction works had been completed and a start had been made on the installation of pumping equipment.

Lostock Gralam Sewage Disposal Works Reconstruction

Further consideration of proposals for the reconstruction of the Works at Lostock Gralam was deferred until the question of rationalisation of sewerage and sewage disposal in the Northwich area had been considered by the Department of the Environment and the Urban and Rural Councils.

East Barnton Sewerage Scheme

At the beginning of the year the approval of the Department of the Environment was received to the final design of the above scheme. By the

end of the year detailed design works had been completed and a tender accepted ready for an early start in 1972.

Acton Bridge Pumping Scheme, Warrington Road

During the course of the year further discussions regarding this scheme took place with the Cheshire County Council, and it was agreed the scheme should be extended to cater for some additional properties. At the end of the year tender documents were in course of preparation.

Marston Pumping Scheme, Ollershaw Lane

The details of a scheme were completed for providing a pumping station which would pump the sewage from the group of houses in Ollershaw Lane to the small disposal works at Higher Marston. Approval had been received from the County Council and by the end of the year a contract had been let and work was satisfactorily proceeding with the construction of the pump house, etc.

Allostock Sewerage Pumping Scheme

Further work in connection with the preparation of this scheme was deferred as information had been received that it was unlikely the Council would be able to discharge into the Congleton Rural District Council's drainage scheme for the adjoining area until 1973. The scheme will be submitted and proceeded with to tie up in the constructional programme by the Congleton Council.

Davenham, Hartford and Rudheath Joint Scheme

It was reported in the previous year that this scheme was in abeyance pending consideration of a report on the rationalisation of sewerage and sewage disposal in the Northwich area, and by the end of the year a joint report had been approved by the Department of the Environment and detailed work of design had started in connection with proposals for the Lostock Gralam and Wincham area which provides for a new pumping station adjoining Warrington New Road which will discharge into the Northwich Urban area sewerage system. In respect of the Rudheath and Hartford areas these will, in due course, be pumped to join with the Northwich Urban system. Detailed design of the various units in this rationalisation scheme will be in accordance with a pre-determined time programme which has to be related to new sewerage and sewage disposal works to be carried out in the Northwich Urban area.

Tarporley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

During the year some progress was made by the Planning Authority regarding reconsideration of a village plan for Tarporley and by the end of the year the scheme for the Tarporley Sewage Works and additional sewerage provision had been submitted to the Department of the Environment for consideration.

Marton Sewerage Scheme

During the year the Council considered the problems associated with sewerage in the Parish of Marton, at present partly dealt with by three small existing works. It was agreed that pumping units should be put in at suitable points to enable two of these works to be abandoned and the whole of the flow pumped to the larger works which was capable, with minor extensions, of dealing with this. In addition, it was agreed to extend the sewerage system to serve several areas in the Parish which did not have the benefit of main sewerage. By the end of the year design, etc. had been completed and tenders invited for the carrying out of the work.

CLOSET CONVERSION

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47 (iv)

No grants were paid during the year. In all premises converting to water closets the work was done as part of improvement under the Housing Act 1969 and received grant aid.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

520 septic tanks and cesspools have been emptied during the year and a weekly collection of nightsoil has been maintained. The number of premises with pail closets decreased during the year but it is felt that it will be a number of years before this service can be discontinued despite the increased publicity given to the availability of improvement grants.

CLEANSING SERVICE

The productivity bonus scheme introduced in September 1970 has maintained the improvement in the collection of refuse and the district now has a weekly service, excepting the occasions when holidays, sickness or bad weather cause unavoidable delays. The amount of overtime required to maintain the service has been greatly reduced, as has the turnover in staff, although difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining drivers with Heavy Goods Vehicle licences.

Approximately 3,200 loads of refuse were collected and disposed of at the tip in Daleford Lane, Marton. The present tip is rapidly filling and investigations are to be made in the coming year to find a suitable replacement tip.

The fleet consists of :-

- 4 Eagle 75 cubic yard crushloaders
- 5 Dennis Paxits
- 2 Dennis Sideloaders
- 1 Bedford 5-ton lorry
- 2 Cesspool Emptiers (Bedford & Dennis)
- 2 Dumpsters
- 1 Melford Sweeper
- 1 International Loader
- 1 Land Rover

The Department's labour force consists of :-

- 1 Foreman
- 1 Tip Man
- 1 Salvage Baler
- 13 Drivers
- 27 Labourers

The number of vehicles now owned by the Council, and the conditions placed on vehicle users by the Transport Act, 1968, has lead to an extra fitter and general labourer being employed in the garage.

SALVAGE

The amount of salvage collected during the year was :-

Waste Paper	...	...	481.50 tonnes
Textiles	...	...	0.56 tonnes
Miscellaneous	...	...	0.05 tonnes

A total of £5,615 was realised from the sale of all salvaged materials during the year.

Record of Salvage collected and sold since inception

<u>Year</u>	<u>Paper</u> <u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Textiles</u> <u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Scrap Iron</u> <u>etc.</u> <u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Miscell- aneous</u> <u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Value</u> <u>£</u>
1940/70	9742.639	299.491	732.359	58.826	92,502
1971	481.500	0.565	-	0.050	5,615
TOTALS	10224.139	300.056	732.359	58.876	£98.117

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

A circular was again sent out with all rate demands informing rate-payers of the services provided by the Council under the above Act and giving details of all container sites in the district.

A further specialised vehicle was purchased during the year in order to cope with the increased number of containers provided and to enable the more heavily used ones to be emptied more frequently. Ratepayers in general appear to appreciate the service although there has been some mis-use necessitating extra work in clearing the sites around the containers.

Some indiscriminate tipping still takes place but this is usually cleared within a short time of being notified and the department is also receiving an increasing number of requests for the removal of bulky items of household furniture.

During the year 2756 containers were emptied and, in addition, 265 vehicle loads of rubbish from the container sites were removed. We now have 19 sites in operation and 14 private containers are also emptied. A service has also been provided whereby ratepayers can hire a container at a fixed sum for the disposal of builder's rubble, etc. and the use of this facility is increasing. Three sites formerly used have been vacated because of complaints from nearby householders but in one village which is now without a container site, this has given rise to a number of complaints about the lack of a container.

11 abandoned cars were dealt with in accordance with the Act.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

The Pest Control Officer has made 1,703 visits in the treatment of 600 premises. Treatment of domestic premises is free but business premises are charged. The income from this source was £682.58.

Difficulty has again been experienced in the control of mice and trapping has been found to be the best answer in some instances.

The Council's refuse tip is regularly treated.

The poisons used in control work are :- Warfarin, Alphakil, Drat, Di-Thoxin, Raticate and Zinc Phosphide.

ANNUAL RETURN ON RATS AND MICE

Year ended 31st December, 1971

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	546	3
Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	340 104	3 -
Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification	23	28
Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	23 19	28 26

INSECT PESTS

The number of complaints, 297, received, again increased especially those concerning ants and wasps, and serious consideration has been given to whether the Department should continue to treat for ants because of the time required to treat. If the complaints continue to rise treatment will have to be curtailed or extra staff employed.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming pools within the area to which the general public have access but a number of small baths were built at private houses.

CARAVAN SITES

The following list shows parish by parish the number of sites in the district and the use for which they are registered.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Mixed</u>
Acton Bridge	2	2	-
Allostock	-	3	1
Anderton	-	1	-
Barnton	-	1	-
Crowton	1	1	-
Cuddington	-	2	-
Delamere	3	1	-
Lach Dennis	-	1	-
Little Budworth	1	-	-
Marston	-	1	-
Marton	2	2	1
Moulton	1	2	-
Nether Peover	1	-	-
Oakmere	1	3	2
Rushton	-	1	-
Weaverham	1	1	-
Wincham	-	1	-

GYPSY AND OTHER ITINERANT TRADERS

No permanent sites have as yet been provided within the district and a considerable amount of time was spent in dealing with the problem. There would appear to be no solution until sites are provided but residents have objected strongly to the sites proposed by the County Council.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The following premises were granted licences after inspection by a member of the department and on complying with the requirements of the Cheshire County Fire Officer and the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector.

Hunt Hill Kennels, Chester Lane, Marton
Mount Pleasant Kennels, The Yeld, Delamere
Franbett Kennels, Chester Road, Oakmere
Firth Field Kennels, King Street, Rudheath
Sualane Kennels, Cotebrook
Blue Grass Kennels, Little Leigh
Yew Trees, Cuddington Bank, Cuddington (Summer months only)
The Laurels, Acton Bridge (Summer months only)
Field Farm, Back Lane, Nether Peover

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

There are nine scrap metal dealers carrying on businesses within the district.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The two volumetric SO₂ recorders were in operation for the first seven months of the year but unfortunately due to breakdowns and shortage of staff it was not possible to complete a full year's readings. The C.E. G. B. pollution recording device at Pale Heights, Delamere, was returned and a new cylinder installed. This is part of a nationwide survey by the Board.

No applications were received for prior approval of chimney heights.

S E C T I O N V

HOUSING

Routine inspections under the Housing Acts have resulted in five houses being placed under Demolition Orders and eight houses were closed. One dwelling previously closed as unfit, had the Order revoked after satisfactory repair and renovation.

There were no Council houses built during the year.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Demolished</u>	<u>Private Houses Built</u>
Acton Bridge	-	-
Allostock	-	-
Anderton	-	2
Barnton	-	64
Bostock	-	-
Byley	-	-
Comberbach	-	17
Crowton	-	-
Cuddington	-	11
Darnhall	-	-
Davenham	-	1
Delamere	-	12
Hartford	-	25
Lach Dennis	-	-
Little Budworth	-	11
Little Leigh	-	9
Lostock Gralam	-	2
Marbury	-	-
Marston	-	-
Marton	-	-
Moulton	1	31
Nether Peover	-	3
Oakmere	-	-
Rudheath	-	17
Rushton	-	1
Sproston	-	-
Stanthorne	-	1
Tarporley	-	12
Utkinton	-	4
Weaverham	-	9
Whacroft	-	-
Wimboldsley	-	-
Wincham	-	56
Totals	1	288

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Joint inspections of all properties, where application for grant aid is made, are carried out by this department and the Surveyor's department.

The following is a summary of the applications received in 1971 :-

	Applications received	Approved	Refused	Work Completed
Improvement Grants	68	65	3	32
Standard Grants	41	41	-	24
Special Grants	-	-	-	-

During the year £13,566.13 was paid in improvement grants and £2,547.70 in standard grants.

The publicity and advertising campaigns on improvement grants were found to be causing confusion to the public. On a number of occasions officers have found property owners convinced by the campaigns that grant aid is available for repair or replacement works, irrespective of improvements. This is incorrect because only where works are required to make improvements carried out at the same time fully effective, can they be eligible for grant aid. The majority of owners accept the explanation given and the Council's refusal of aid but others are not so amenable.

HOUSING ACT, 1969 - APPLICATIONS FOR QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Section 44(1) (Where the dwelling satisfies the qualifying conditions)

25 applications have been received and 24 dealt with.

4 certificates of approval were issued.

20 applications were refused because of defects in the properties concerned. Landlords later carried out repairs to two of these properties and re-applied for certificates.

Section 44(2) (Where dwelling does not have all the standard amenities)

32 applications have been received.

8 certificates of provisional approval were issued.

24 applications were refused as the dwellings did not satisfy the qualifying conditions.

S E C T I O N VI

FOOD PREMISES

The list below gives particulars of premises concerned with the handling, preparation or sale of food :-

Butchers	28
Fishmongers	10
Grocers (including sweet shops)	137
Greengrocers	22
Bakehouses	11
Fried Fish Shops	11
Restaurants and Cafes	17
Food Preparation Premies - schools, canteens, hospitals	40
Licensed premises	68
Total	344

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :-

Ice-Cream manufacturers	1
Ice-Cream dealers	117
Manufacturers of sausage or meat pies	28
Total	146

FOOD COMPLAINTS

The following complaints were received by the department during the year :-

1. Dirty Milk Bottle - Informal action - dairy cautioned.
2. Moth larva in milk - County Council Weights & Measures Department prosecuted the dairy concerned.
3. Stain in milk bottle - Informal action - dairy cautioned.
4. Unfit baby food - Further samples opened at shop were satisfactory. Complaint taken up with manufacturers who stated that a faulty seal to the jar had caused the complaint. No action.
5. Unfit meat - Complaint received from a school canteen. The meat had been delivered in a frozen state and the supplier stated he had received it in this condition. Supplier informally cautioned.
6. Decomposed tinned hams - 16 tins of imported ham were brought into the department during the year by various shopkeepers in the district. The local agents for the hams were contacted & supplied a different brand in the latter part of the year as a result of which no further complaints were received.

OTHER FOODS

The following amounts of foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily to the department during the year :-

Carcase meat and offal	206 lbs.
Cooked meats	201 lbs.
*Frozen foodstuffs	499 lbs.
Total	906 lbs.

* Due to refrigerator breakdown.

* Health Departments seem to be increasingly used by shopkeepers to provide insurance certificates and these are issued although at the time of inspection some of the foodstuffs are not unfit. We take the view that it is preferable to condemn all the foodstuffs rather than allow some for immediate sale and risk it being re-frozen by a member of the staff.

MILK

The County Health Department sample milk and submit the samples to the Public Health laboratory in Chester. Any problems encountered are quickly resolved by joint discussions.

There are 56 premises registered under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963/5.

The laboratory results on milk samples taken are tabulated below:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1. Methylene Blue Test	98	3
2. Phosphatase Test	23	-
3. Turbidity Test	13	-

1. Measures the keeping quality of the milk
2. Measures the efficiency of pasteurisation
3. Measures the efficiency of sterilisation

	Bulk	Individual
Brucella Negative (Satisfactory result)	49	1
Brucella Positive	-	-
Penicillin < 0.05 i.u. (Satisfactory result)	43	-
Penicillin > 0.05 i.u.	-	-
Tubercular Negative (Satisfactory result)	3	-
Tubercular Positive	-	-

Brucellosis

No cases have been notified to the department during the year.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 52

The one ice-cream manufacturer in the district maintained a satisfactory standard throughout the year.

FOOD SAMPLING UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. J. C. Graham the Divisional Weights and Measures Inspector, Cheshire County Council, for the following information.

A total of 92 samples were taken during the year of which one was unsatisfactory, this being milk containing 3.5% extraneous water. The dairy was cautioned.

The following complaints were received :-

<u>Complainant</u>	<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Private Purchaser	Insect larva in milk	Dairy fined £100
Private Purchaser	Insect in bread	Bakers fined £20
Private Purchaser	Easter egg with peculiar taste	Complaint not substantiated
Private Purchaser	Sliver of wood in sliced loaf	Baker cautioned
Private Purchaser	Mouldy loaf	Baker cautioned
Private Purchaser	Fly in baby food	Packers cautioned
Private Purchaser	Mouldy crumpets	No action
Private Purchaser	Mouldy tinned pudding	No action
School	Vegetable fibres in milk	Dairy cautioned

MEAT INSPECTION

The four slaughterhouses in the district were re-licensed and 1085 visits were made, 15,515 carcasses were inspected and 8829 lbs. of meat was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption. Quarterly inspections of the slaughterhouses continue to be made by a member of the department and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Officer.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed & inspected	2437	219	8	9564	3287
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	5	-	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	155	109	-	319	129
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	6.4%	50%	62.5%	5.7%	4.6%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
	-	-	-	-	-

DISPOSAL OF UNFIT MEAT

Contractors call at the slaughterhouses as necessary to convey unfit meat to their works for processing. Some difficulty was experienced in the early part of the year because the metal bins supplied by the contractor were in many cases unsuitable. This difficulty has now been resolved by the use of plastic bins, which are easier to clean and do not become mis-shapen.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

19 licences were issued to competent slaughtermen under the above Act.

POULTRY PACKING STATION

An inspector continues to visit the station daily and a spotter system has been inaugurated. This appears to be working satisfactorily and a close check is maintained on the hygiene of both plant and processing. Carcasses and working surfaces are swabbed weekly by the processing Company's chemist and any unsatisfactory bacterial counts are notified to the department.

An air drier cooling plant has now been installed to replace the chlorinated cooling water tank and appears to be working satisfactorily although some trouble has been experienced with the temperature of birds leaving the cooling plant.

During routine inspections at the packing station in August it was noticed that chickens were being injected with a 4% solution of sodium polyphosphate, the object of this being to prevent weight loss through cooking and to retain moisture during storage. We had received no notification of the Company's intentions to inject the chickens and this matter was immediately taken up with the management. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was contacted and confirmed that sodium polyphosphate was a permitted additive but stated this was the first time they had been aware of its use in poultry processing. The Cheshire County Council Public Analyst was concerned, like ourselves, that this could also be a means of injecting additional water into the birds but this might be difficult to prove on analysis. The Company agreed that after a trial period of two weeks all chickens containing polyphosphates would be so labelled and this is now being done.

1.	Number of registered poultry processing premises within the district	-	One
2.	Number of visits made	-	263
3.	Number of birds processed	-	1,413,758
4.	Types of birds processed	-	Broilers Capons Ducklings Turkeys
5.	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	-	1.58%
6.	Weight of birds rejected	-	64,379 lbs.
7.	Number of killing days per week	-	5

